

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS
Special Called Council Meeting

September 26, 1979
9:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order with Mayor McClellan presiding.

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor McClellan, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Mullen, Snell

Absent: Councilmembers Trevino, Cooke, Goodman

Mayor McClellan stated that this was a Special Called Meeting for the purpose of considering the adoption of both the 1979-84 Capital Improvements Program and the 1979-80 Operating Budget.

Finance

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau moved that the Council cut 20% of the capital outlay of \$2,000 from the budget. The motion, seconded by Mayor McClellan, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Mullen, Snell,
Mayor McClellan

Noes: None

Absent: Councilmembers Trevino, Cooke, Goodman

Property Management - No Cuts

Utility Customer Service - No Cuts

Purchases and Stores

The Council had before them for discussion the following:

Streamline office supply issuance	- \$15,672
Renovate microfilm area (decided to return to this item for an alternate proposal later)	- 17,000
Carpet materials control office (Working Capital Fund)	- 2,250
Office of Minority Business Affairs restore to current level	- 6,148
Capital outlay, cut 20%	- 2,210
Replacement capital and memory typewriter	- 4,946
Renovation of basement, not counting Municipal Building Cafeteria (decided to return to this item for an alternate proposal later) (Building Services)	- 36,000

At this time Councilmembers Cooke and Trevino entered the Council Chamber.

After some discussion concerning the renovation of the basement and microfilm area, the Council requested estimates on alternate proposals and said that they would come back for a decision on these two matters later.

Motion

Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council delete \$84,226 from the budget. The motion, seconded by Mayor McClellan, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen, Mayor
McClellan, Councilmember Cooke
Noes: Councilmember Snell
Abstain: Councilmember Trevino
Absent: Councilmember Goodman

Research and Budget - No Cuts

Paramount Theatre - General Revenue Sharing

Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council delete \$100,000 for lighting for the Paramount Theatre from the budget. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Mullen, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Mullen, Snell, Trevino, Mayor McClellan,
Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau
Noes: None
Absent: Councilmember Goodman

Special Services

The Council discussed the possible deletion of the following items from the budget:

Austin Community Foundation	- \$ 2,500
CPR (charge \$7.50) (The City will pick up \$40,000 in revenues by charging the \$7.50)	40,000
Minority Intern Program (pulled for a separate vote)	- 8,738
Special Projects (The Mayor suggested that this amount be reduced to \$100,000 for the Fire Department study)	- 125,000
Tuition Reimbursement (pulled for a separate vote)	- 5,000
Other fees and services (for neighborhood Council meetings)	- 5,000

Motion

Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council delete \$158,738 for the following items: CPR(\$40,000); Minority Intern Program(\$8,738); Special Projects (\$100,000); Tuition Reimbursement (\$5,000); and Other Fees and Services (\$5,000). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Himmelblau.

Councilmember Snell stated, "I don't know how I could vote for this, because I can't vote against...I can't support this taking \$8,000 out of the Minority Intern Program; I can't support the Tuition Reimbursement. I wish we could pull those out. I would like to vote separately on those."

Councilmember Trevino concurred with Councilmember Snell and the Mayor pulled the two items for a separate vote.

The Council, on Councilmember Cooke's amended motion, voted to delete the following:

<u>CPR (added revenue)</u>	<u>\$ 40,000</u>
Special Projects	- 100,000
Other fees and Services	- <u>5,000</u>
Total Deletions	- \$105,000

The motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Snell, Trevino, Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen
 Noes: None
 Absent: Councilmember Goodman

Motion - Vote Failed

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau moved to delete \$8,738 from the Minority Intern Program. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Cooke, failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen
 Noes: Councilmember Trevino, Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Snell
 Absent: Councilmember Goodman

Motion

Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council delete \$5,000 from the Tuition Reimbursement Program. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Mullen, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen
 Noes: Councilmembers Snell, Trevino
 Absent: Councilmember Goodman

Vehicle and Equipment Services

The Council rather extensively discussed the replacement of vehicles, the upgrading of vehicles and gas allotments. Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau noted that too many vehicles are going home at night and that we need a cut-back with fuel being used more wisely.

There was some discrepancy in two memos supplied to the Council and a request was made for clarification in two specific areas - the number of replacement vehicles and their impact on the General Fund and the number of vehicles to be upgraded, as reflected in the September 20 memo.

At this time Councilmember Goodman entered the Council Chamber.

Councilmember Cooke said, "Could I have Mr. Butler explain to us if we didn't replace the 33 vehicles, what that would...how that would effect the General fund? This is replacement of 33 vehicles."

Mr. Butler replied, "Mr. Cooke, I think if we are able to park the 33 replacement sedans in the General Fund and as part of the fuel conservation program, to switch some of the people that would be driving sedans to the allowance thing, that we can effect a net reduction in.... across General Fund Departments that are effected, of about \$110,000." He further stated, "Parking those vehicles and trying to put those people on allowances...the net effect of that would be \$100,000 reduction in the General fund spread throughout the effected departments; so, when it is put in there, some of the departments will be effected \$2,000...If Council does this, we are going to park those vehicles and we will sell them at an auction. We will not retain them in the fleet, whatsoever."

Mayor McClellan commented that a real savings would be realized next year.

Motion

Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council delete \$110,000 from the General Fund. The motion, seconded by Mayor McClellan, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Mullen, Snell,
Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke
Noes: None
Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmember Trevino,
Goodman

Merit Raise

Motion

Councilmember Mullen moved that the Council cut the merit fund by 20% (\$500,000). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cooke.

The Council discussed merit raises at some length, noting that it often appears that raises are automatic, rather than based on merit. Councilmember Goodman expressed concern about long-time employees having their salaries frozen. He suggested an increase in pay steps, in order to "unfreeze" those employees.

Mr. Flakes noted in the first three quarters of this year that there have been 1,888 merit increases given and that the average, or the increase rate was 3.6%.

In reply to Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau's inquiry, Mr. Davidson said that \$624,797 of the total merit increase money would go to the Utility Fund.

Substitute Motion - Vote Failed for Lack of Second

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau said, "That is the point I wanted to make. I would go with a compromise and make it in the form of a substitute motion." (Substitute motion failed for lack of second).

Friendly Amendment - Not Accepted

Councilmember Goodman offered a Friendly Amendment to the original motion to eliminate the freeze on employees after seven years, in order that the manager might have even more flexibility.

Councilmember Mullen did not accept the Friendly Amendment, but he did make a commitment to look at it in a couple of weeks and perhaps at that time to consider amending the budget.

Roll Call on Original Motion

Councilmember Mullen moved that the Council delete 20% of the merit fund (\$500,000). The motion, seconded by Councilmember Cooke, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen, Mayor McClellan,
Councilmember Cooke
Noes: Councilmembers Goodman, Snell, Trevino

Personnel Entry Levels

Mr. Flakes presented a proposal to the Council which said that "we would have two new entry pay scales...one on the administrative-clerical pay-scale and one on the technical-craft pay scale. They would be at approximately...be minimum wage, and the purpose would be so that we would be able to reclassify those positions that we have traditionally overpaid; and, we don't need to pay to secure the entry level kinds of services...non-experience kinds of positions. We would save \$138,000."*(Mr. Flakes later corrected the figure to be \$182,000, rather than \$138,000). He said, "By implementing this at the beginning of the budget year and classifying all of the employees that should be on that scale."

Mr. Flakes further commented that this would be "all of the current employees that should be there. We are not proposing that any employee is losing his pay, but we are also not proposing that two employees in the same classification be paid on two separate pay scales; this would result "redlining" some jobs.

Mayor McClellan commented that they wouldn't be losing their pay, but neither would they have any salary and wage increases or potential for growth.

Mr. Flakes recommended to the Council that we widen our pay ranges to be competitive with the market, in order to protect employees from reaching the end of the line so quickly. If implemented immediately, the cost would be \$287,000.

Motion

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council extend the pay grades to be effective May, 1980 (an estimated cost of \$138,000) and to implement the two new entry pay grades in October, 1979 (a cost savings of \$182,000). The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau.

Councilmember Goodman commented that his proposal would result in a \$44,000 savings.

Substitute Motion

Councilmember Mullen made a substitute motion that the Council take action only on the entry level question, in order to save \$182,000 and take up the other question at a later date. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Cooke, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Mullen, Snell, Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau
Noes: Councilmembers Trevino, Goodman

Good News!

After Mayor McClellan commented, "Yes, City of Austin, there is a Santa Claus," Mr. Butler addressed the Council as follows:

"As you know, on Thursday, the City Council will be asked to certify the Tax Assessment Rolls for the City of Austin for the calendar year 1979. That certification will carry a larger number than the number upon which we did the budget planning for the tax base. We planned this budget on a tax base of \$3,674,000,000. The Board...we will ask you to certify...the Board of Equalization will ask you to certify an Assessment Roll or Tax Roll of \$3,789,487,573. This number is based upon a computer run which became available for the first time this morning, and there are three exceptions to that

number. 1) it does not exclude any decisions made on appeals by the Board, 2) changes in the amount of the City tax exemptions for the year 1978, or 3) enactment of any local tax exemptions for disabled persons; but, on that basis, this roll should generate about \$785,315 in the next tax year, above that which is in the General Fund at this time. I wish we could have had this number sooner for you, but this information simply became available this morning. There will be some minor modifications. We will not realize the full gain in that income, but the assessment roll will be greater...the General Fund will gain \$785,315 or in that neighborhood, which is about 2 cents."

Aqua Festival

Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council require the Aqua Festival to give the City of Austin reimbursement of \$30,000 for all City services, except Police. (Net reimbursement - \$20,000). The motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, carried by the following vote:

- Ayes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen
- Noes: Councilmembers Snell, Trevino, Goodman

The Council noted that if the Aqua Festival attempts to get a service that the City finds substandard, the Council would not concur with that kind of situation; however, they are free to go to another entity and get the service cheaper, as long as the safety of the citizens, etc. is not endangered.

Arts and Cultural Agencies

<u>Agency</u>	<u>1978-79 Contract</u>	<u>1979-80 Request</u>
Afro-American Players	\$ 5,375	\$15,025

Motion

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau moved that the Afro-American Players be reinstated at either last year's level, which was \$5,375, or with a 10% increase, which is \$5,900 (rounded off). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cooke.

Substitute Motion - Vote Failed

Councilmember Snell presented a substitute motion that the Afro-American Players be considered for \$10,000. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Trevino, failed to carry by the following vote:

- Ayes: Councilmembers Trevino, Goodman, Snell
- Noes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Mullen

Roll Call on Original Motion

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau moved that the Council raise the Afro-American Players 10% and round it off to \$5,900. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Cooke, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Mullen, Trevino
Noes: Councilmember Snell

Motion

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council increase the agency funds by 10% from last year for a total as follows:

Austin Ballet Theatre	\$ 6,820
Civic Ballet	19,935
Austin Civic Wind Ensemble	660
Austin Contemporary Visual Art Association	1,935
Austin Ethnic History Association	594
Austin Federation of Musicians	9,680
Austin Friends of Traditional Music	1,733
Austin Guitar Society	495

The motion, seconded by Councilmember Trevino, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Snell, Trevino, Mayor McClellan
Noes: Councilmember Mullen

Austin Opportunities, Inc. \$ 1,780 (recommended by Arts Com.)

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau said that she would not go over the \$1,780 recommended by the Arts Commission. Councilmember Snell said that he was looking at the level at which they were funded last year and would like to increase it by 10%, as they had the other agencies.

Motion - Vote Failed

Councilmember Snell moved that the Council award the Austin Opportunities, Inc., \$4,035. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Goodman, failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Goodman, Snell, Trevino
Noes: Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen
Abstain: Mayor McClellan

Motion - Failed for Lack of Second

Councilmember Goodman moved that Austin Opportunities, Inc. be awarded \$1,782.

Councilmember Snell commented that Austin Opportunities, Inc. would not accept \$1,782, as it would do no good. He said, "If you don't give them enough, you might as well not give them anything. This is all you are doing anyway."*

Motion

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council increase the funds 10% for the following agencies:

Austin Repertory Theatre	\$ 1,683
Austin Symphony	42,989**
Austin Symphony Choral Union	3,511
Center for Cultural Resources	17,000
Center Stage	2,750
Creative Rapid Learning Center	3,536
Dance Umbrella	2,750
Invisible, Inc.	3,732
KMFA	2,235
Laguna Gloria Art Museum	104,379
League of United Chicano Artists	22,473
Music Umbrella	3,932
Spectrum	4,070
Texas Circuit	4,070
Women and Their Art	9,504
Zachary Scott Theatre Center	40,154
Contingency Fund	1,800

The motion, seconded by Councilmember Trevino, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Mullen, Trevino,
 Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman

Noes: None

Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmember Snell

* Later in the meeting, Councilmember Snell moved that the Council award Austin Opportunities, Inc. \$4,035. The motion, seconded by Mayor McClellan, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman, Snell, Trevino

Noes: Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen

** Later in the meeting, Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council accept the Arts Commissions recommendation and fund the Austin Symphony \$44,222. The motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen
Noes: None
Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmember Trevino, Goodman, Snell

Austin Festival of Arts

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau moved that the Council delete \$4,945 from the Austin Festival of Arts. The motion, seconded by Mayor McClellan, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Mullen, Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau
Noes: Councilmember Trevino, Goodman
Abstain: Councilmember Snell

Inter-Arts Works

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council approve the Arts Commissions recommendation of \$2,911 for InterArt Works. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Trevino, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Trevino, Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen
Noes: Councilmember Snell

Social Agencies

Austin Area Urban League

Motion

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau moved to fund the Austin Area Urban League with \$28,494. The motion was seconded by Mayor McClellan.

Substitute Motion - Vote Failed

Councilmember Trevino moved that the Council fund the Austin Area Urban League with \$31,127. The substitute motion, seconded by Councilmember Snell, failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Trevino, Goodman, Snell
Noes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen

Roll Call on Original Motion

The Council voted on the original motion to fund the Austin Area Urban League with \$28,494. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Mullen, Trevino
Noes: None
Abstain: Councilmember Snell

Austin Rehabilitation Center

Motion

Councilmember Trevino moved that the Council approve funding of \$18,000 for the Austin Rehabilitation Center. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Goodman, failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Goodman, Trevino
Noes: Councilmember Cooke, Mayor McClellan, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau
Abstain: Councilmember Mullen
Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmember Snell

Councilmember Trevino noted that the Council was basing its figures on a seven month time period. After further discussion, Councilmember Mullen voted Yes and Mayor McClellan stated that she would change her vote to Yes, since it was based on seven months.

Ayes: Councilmembers Goodman, Mullen, Trevino, Mayor McClellan
Noes: Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau
Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmember Snell

Social Agencies Continued

Center for Battered Women	\$32,428
Community Bound	5,500
Legal Aid	42,112
Middle Earth	17,325
United Cerebral Palsy	20,094
Youth Advocacy	7,000

(contingent upon their receiving an additional \$7,000 from the County. The program would then bring in approximately \$100,000 worth of badly needed programs to the City).

Motion

Councilmember Trevino moved that the Council fund the following Social Agencies as listed:

Center for Battered Women	\$32,428
Community Bound	5,500
Legal Aid	42,112
Middle Earth	17,325
United Cerebral Palsy	20,094
Youth Advocacy	7,000

(Contingent upon their receiving like funds from the County).

The motion, seconded by Councilmember Snell, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Mullen, Trevino, Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman
 Noes: None
 Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmember Snell

MHMR Roving LeadersMotion - Vote Failed

Councilmember Trevino moved that the Council allocate \$30,000 for MHMR Roving Leaders. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Goodman, failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Trevino, Goodman
 Noes: Councilmember Mullen, Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau
 Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmember Snell

After further discussion, the Council again had a motion before it.

Motion - Vote Failed

Councilmember Goodman moved to reconsider the Roving Leader Program/MHMR and fund them \$30,000. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Snell, failed to carry by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Goodman, Snell, Trevino
Noes: Councilmember Cooke, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen, Mayor McClellan

Legal Aid

Motion - Withdrawn

Councilmember Mullen moved to delete \$57,800 from Legal Aid. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau. (Motion withdrawn after discussion).

Paramount Theatre

Motion - Died for Lack of Second

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Paramount Theatre be awarded \$25,000 to match that amount given to them by the Texas Historical Commission. (Motion died for lack of second).

Motion - Died for Lack of Second

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau moved that the Paramount Theatre be awarded \$25,000 from the bed tax money. (Motion died for lack of second).

Motion

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau moved that the Council cut \$9,000 out of the Auditorium operating expense and combine that with \$16,000 from the ending balance for a total of \$25,000 and to increase the transfer to Special Services by \$25,000 and further specify that the \$25,000 would be bed tax funds and would to to the Paramount Theatre to be used to match a grant from the Texas Historical Commission. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Cooke, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Snell, Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke
Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen

Noes: None

Abstain: Councilmember Goodman

Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmember Trevino

Social Service Agencies Continued

Motion

Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council fund the following agencies:

Austin Child Guidance Center	\$62,308
Austin Community Nursery	29,276
Austin Rape Crisis Center	21,780
Austin Tenants Council	22,612
ATC/MH-MR	264,216
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	32,034
Capital Area Rehabilitation Center	36,664
Caritas	51,870
Child, Inc.	259,121
Development Assistance for Rehabilitation	57,200
Extend-A-Care	17,703
People's Community Clinic	32,944
Services for the Elderly	54,936
United Action for the Elderly	43,721
Youth Employment	47,221

The motion, seconded by Mayor McClellan, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Mullen, Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke,
Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau

Noes: None

Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmember Snell,
Trevino, Goodman

Council Pay Raise

Motion

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council increase the pay of Councilmembers from \$12,000 per year to \$16,300. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Snell, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Trevino, Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke,
Goodman, Snell

Noes: Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmember Mullen

Motion

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council increase the pay of the Mayor so that there be a differential between the Mayor's pay and the Councilmembers pay of \$2,000 plus. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Snell, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau,
Councilmembers Snell, Trevino
Noes: Councilmember Mullen
Abstain: Mayor McClellan

Motion - General Fund

Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council adopt the General Fund portion of the 1979-80 budget as amended by Council. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Goodman, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau,
Councilmembers Snell, Trevino, Mayor McClellan
Noes: Councilmember Mullen

Mayor McClellan commented that the General Fund budget was adopted with no tax increase.

Electric DepartmentMotion

Councilmember Cooke moved that the Council cut \$1,010,000 from the Electric Department, based on recommendations that this amount would reduce the rate increase from the proposed 8.8% to 8.2%. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Goodman, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers
Mullen, Snell, Trevino, Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke
Noes: None

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau commented that the cuts should be made to be cost effective and not in the maintenance area.

The Council further requested a report in two to three weeks, indicating where the cuts would be made.

Water and Wastewater Department

Dan Davidson, City Manager, told the Council if we "delete enough resources from the water and wastewater budget so that we could live within the 13% increase instead of a 16% increase, it is my opinion that such a

policy would have serious implications in our ability to provide adequate water and wastewater service in the future". He further stated, "I don't think that it will be acceptable to this Council for the maintenance of those facilities to fall below current standards, and it is on this basis that I respectfully requested that Mr. Cooke not propose the \$891,000 cuts or whatever it amounted to".

Motion

Councilmember Mullen moved that the Council delete \$90,000 from the Water and Wastewater Department and let the staff come back. The motion, seconded by Mayor McClellan, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Mullen, Snell,
Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Cooke

Noes: None

Not in Council Chamber when roll was called: Councilmembers Trevino,
Goodman

Executive Session

Mayor McClellan announced that Council would convene in a closed or executive session authorized by Section 2, Paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) of Article 6252-17, Texas Revised Civil Statutes Annotated; and after such closed or executive session, any final action, decision or vote with regard to any matter considered in the closed or executive session would be made in open session, should such action, decision of vote be necessary.

The Council reconvened in open meeting with Councilmember Mullen absent.

Motion

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council give the City Manager a 5% increase in pay. The motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Snell, Trevino, Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers
Cooke, Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau

Noes: None

Absent: Councilmember Mullen

Property Management Department

Motion

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council merge the Property Management Department with the Public Works Department. The motion, seconded by Mayor McClellan, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Trevino, Mayor McClellan, Councilmember Goodman,
Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau

Noes: Councilmembers Snell, Cooke

Absent: Councilmember Mullen

Building Services

Motion

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council move Building Services from Purchases and Stores to Public Works, effective October 1, 1979. The motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Trevino, Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau
Noes: Councilmember Snell
Absent: Councilmember Mullen

ADOPTION OF BUDGET WITH ADJUSTMENTS

Mayor McClellan introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 1979, AND TERMINATING SEPTEMBER 30, 1980, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR EACH DEPARTMENT, PROJECT AND ACCOUNT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilmember Goodman moved that the Council waive the requirement for three readings, declare an emergency and finally pass the ordinance effective immediately with all approved adjustments. The motion, seconded by Councilmember Cooke, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Mayor McClellan, Councilmembers Cooke, Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau, Councilmembers Snell, Trevino
Noes: None
Absent: Councilmember Mullen

The Mayor announced that the ordinance had been finally passed.

After the motion, the Council made the following comments:

Mayor McClellan said, "Before I vote, I want to make one short speech, and that is, I believe that we are about to adopt what we have done. To first of all, thank the City Manager, the Department Heads and the staff and certainly the citizens and our advisory groups that work with us and citizen groups who work with us and particularly my Council colleagues too, who put many many hours on a very tough budget; and I am particularly pleased with what I believe we are about to adopt, which is a balanced budget with no increase in taxes. Although this represents a lower spending level than recommended by the City Manager, it is not a negative reflection on his recommended budget that called for a tax increase. To meet what I believe was a necessity which is the no-tax increase, we have reduced or about to reduce spending levels for new programs. We have re-arranged priorities and policies and we have made some very, very difficult hard decisions; and, in these inflationary times, the City's costs, just like citizens' cost go up, and this budget reflects higher costs, but, I believe it is incumbent upon government to hold the line wherever possible, and as I study the City Manager's proposed budget,

I could...it is really difficult to find any fault with the suggested expenditures provided that we had the money to do that without a tax increase. The hard decisions usually concern the fact that the City cannot be all things to all people and the City cannot meet every request for funds or support without a tax increase and when faced with that decision, I landed on the side of "no" tax increase. I realize for many departments this will be a lean year for City government, but I also believe that this will mean that our financial health will remain high - that basic services will remain strong and that we will continue to look for a way to maintain a quality city and I vote "yes" on the budget."

Councilmember Cooke further commented, "I too vote "yes" and the only thing is, I feel that the one, probably the area most difficult, and I guess there is always the desire that you wish from this side of the podium that you could do more or in our electric utility and water and wastewater, because I really feel that while we did adopt a budget that didn't, or about to adopt a budget that didn't include any tax increase, that a lot larger segment of the community are effected by our utility bills. I vote "yes".

Councilmember Goodman said, "I vote "yes". No speech. If you would like, I will give a short one".

Mayor Pro Tem Himmelblau commented that "I, too, am gratified that we are adopting a budget that does not include a tax increase. I will have some policy statement either on tomorrow's agenda or next Thursday, and I will vote "yes", but I wish that we had allowed enough leeway in the budget to come out with two tax statements...one from us and one from A.I.S.D."

Mayor McClellan replied, "If it didn't cost us more money, I would go with you on it."

The Mayor Pro Tem said, "I know that. I didn't ask for the additional money, but...can I have Thursday underlined in red this year, Mr. Manager?"

The City Manager replied, "We will look at it again, Mrs. Himmelblau."

Councilmember Snell noted, "Of the years I have worked on the budget, I think this has been the toughest. I am not completely statisfied with the budget. I think the Council and the Staff have done a wonderful job, but there are some areas that I think should have been improved. Even though I am not completely statisfied with it, I will vote yes."

Councilmember Trevino was the last to comment. "Yes, but I do regret that we have reduced those areas of Human Services. I think, as all of us are very aware, that there is perhaps the one category that we have been very stingy with. We have the minimum of a percentage for that, and to go in and even remove one cent from those agencies, I think is regrettable.

(For clarification of Legal Department's budget see minutes of September 27th, 1979)

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned its meeting at 12:45 P.M.

APPROVED

Carole Keeton Meillon
Mayor

ATTEST:

Grace Monroe
City Clerk